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Building methods and plant species used in Tembe-Thonga hut construction

by

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ABSTRACT

This paper describes the construction of the traditional Tembe-Thonga hut. Plant species used in building the typical and decorated hut types on the Maputaland coastal plain, Natal, South Africa are listed with their Zulu and Thonga names.

INTRODUCTION

Like most of southern Africa, the Maputaland area of Natal, South Africa is changing rapidly. Altered settlement patterns and building styles are symptomatic of the cultural, technological and ecological changes that are taking place. Most of the coastal area is covered by leached sandy soils with low agricultural potential (Maud 1968 1980, Loxton *et al* 1969). The majority of the areas with moderate to high potential remaining outside forest reserves or conservation areas are under cultivation. In more densely populated areas, shifting agriculture has been replaced by repeated tilling of the same plots. Sites with schools, stores and clinics have become increasingly important as foci of settlement.

With this change from a subsistence to a consumer way of life, much of the people's cultural knowledge will be lost unless it is recorded. Pooley (1980) has published a list of plants used in the Maputaland area including hut-building materials, but this can be expanded. The edaphic conditions of the sandy coastal plain pose specific problems to the people living there. Apart from the low agricultural potential, there is no rock or clay for building purposes, for making pottery or for grinding food. Use of indigenous vegetation has provided many of the solutions to these problems and is reflected in the excellent botanical knowledge of the Tembe-Thonga people today (Pooley 1980, Felgate 1965 1982). Although Palmer & Pitman (1972) and Coates-Palgrave (1977) record tree species used in hut construction in southern Africa and Van Voorthuizen & Odell (1976), Knuffel (1973) and Liengme (1983*a*) have respectively identified and quantified the materials used in Tswana, Ngwane and Tsonga hut construction, building styles and building materials vary with cultural group and environmental conditions.

The aim of this paper is to record hut-construction methods and plant species used by the Tembe-Thonga people on the coastal plain. The extent of use of building materials and the increase in hut numbers over the ten-year period 1974–1983 in this area are recorded elsewhere (Cunningham 1985).

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METHODS

Information on species used in hut building was collected during a study (1980–1984) on the resource value of indigenous vegetation to rural people on the Maputaland coastal plain. One of us (B.R.G.) is from the study area and was already familiar with construction methods. Information on the species used was obtained from local hut-builders in a similar way to Liengme (1983*b*). Plants were identified and voucher specimens were deposited at the Bews Herbarium, Natal University (Cunningham 1985). Details of decorative hut construction were obtained from the two last known specialist hut-builders in the area who were both over 70 years old. Through the efforts and interest of Ms P. McLaren[1] these men were employed to build a traditional hut outside the new offices of the Tembe Tribal Authority as an example of the skills and cultural knowledge of the Tembe people. This gave the opportunity for a series of photographs to be taken of decorated hut construction.

HUT CONSTRUCTION

After choosing a site the prospective hut owner gets permission to build from the local headman. Using a string tied to a peg, a circle of the desired hut radius is marked out (Fig. 1A). For a square or rectangular structure, the area is marked out with pegs at each corner. Reed walls are traditionally used for circular huts and lath woven walls for square huts due to the limitations of the straight lath woven panels.

Men are traditional hut-builders. Women collect thatch and prepare twine, rope and thatching mats. Due to the necessity of threading binding material back and forth in all phases of construction, building is usually done by a minimum of two men. The walls and roof are built separately. Once the roof structure is complete, the roof framework is lifted on to the walls by a group of helpers and the supporting poles are put in place. Should the owner wish to remove the hut to a different site, the reverse procedure takes place. Both processes are treated as social occasions and beer and palm wine are supplied to people giving assistance.

Wall building

Thin poles, 3–6 cm in diameter are firmly placed in the sand about 1 metre apart along the circumference of the hut site. Favoured species used throughout the coastal plain are *Hymenocardia ulmoides, Apodytes dimidiata, Mimusops obovata, Ptaeroxylon obliquum, Dialium schlecteri, Terminalia sericea, Drypetes arguta* and *D. natalensis*. *Newtonia hildebrandtii, Cleistanthus schlecteri* and *Pteleopsis myrtifolia* are also popular but these species are restricted to dune forest areas. All are termite-resistant hardwoods. These are supported by thinner laths tied together to form a horizontal ring inside the poles (Fig. 1B). More rings of bound laths are

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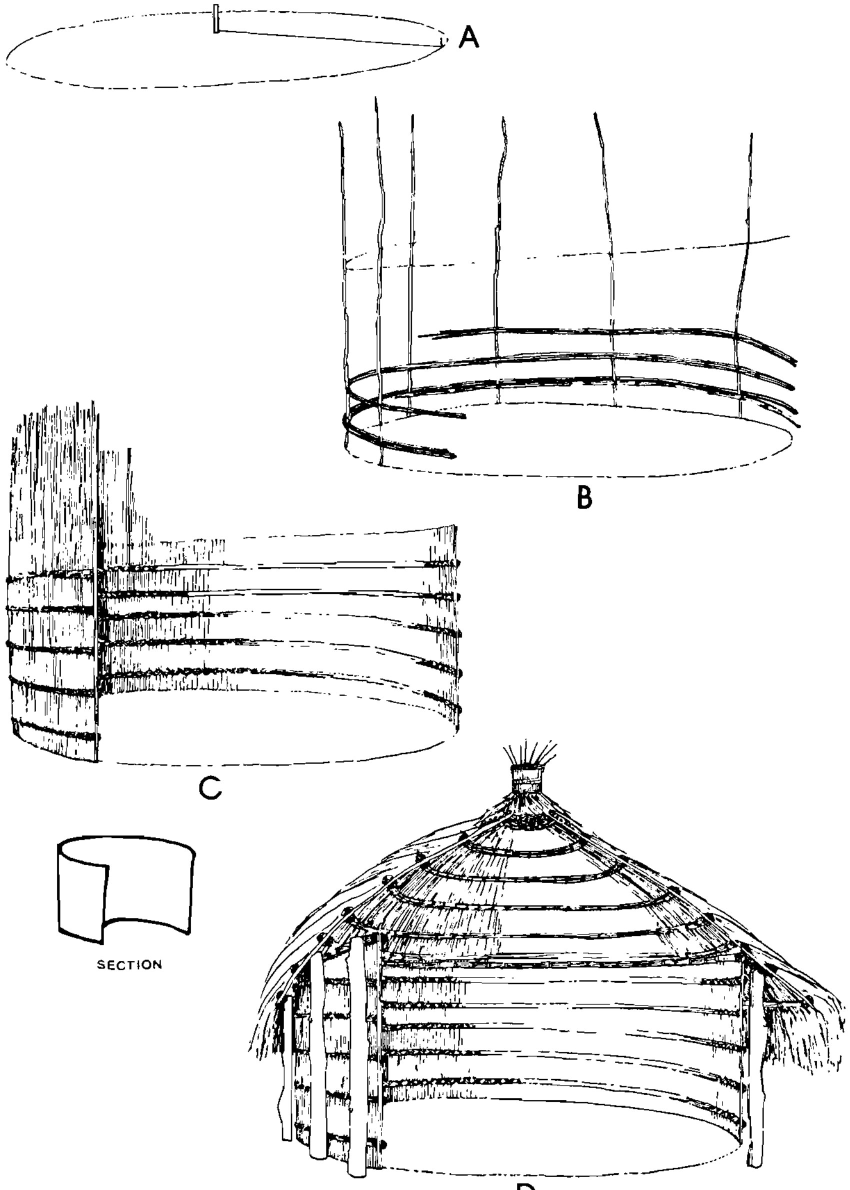

Fig. 1 Stages in hut construction. A. Demarcation of the building site for a circular hut with a string attached to a peg in the centre of the site. B. Placing of lath bundles. C. Reeds bound into position and trimmed off at the desired level. D. Completed hut.

added every 20–30 cm. The topmost ring is usually 1,5–2 m from the ground. Above this is a plaited string marking the required height of the wall. This is usually plaited from *Digitaria eriatha* but may be made of other materials (Table 1). A second horizontal ring is then bound in place outside the poles adjacent to the inner ring with the vertical poles acting as a spacer.

Binding is usually done with strips of *Hyphaene natalensis* leaves. In the coastal area, strips of *Hibiscus tiliaceus* bark, *Strelitzia nicolai* petiole or *Ficus (F. burtt-davyi* or *F. trichopoda)* bark are also used. These binding materials can all be dried and stored prior to use. On site the builder normally buries them in wetted sand to moisten them and to make the binding material more flexible. *Phragmites australis* or *P. mauritianus* reeds are placed between the lath rings and are bound into groups of 10–20 reeds. Specialist hut builders make a stronger hut wall by binding off 3 reeds at a time (Figs 2 and 3). As the reeds are bound in place, the spacer poles are removed. When the wall has been completed, the reeds are trimmed off level with the plaited string (Fig. 4).

Lath woven walls are constructed of thin (2–3 cm diameter) flexible laths 1–1,5 metres long that are woven between upright poles with thinner spacer laths between them (Fig. 5). Commonly used species are shown in Table 1. The builder then constructs the roof.

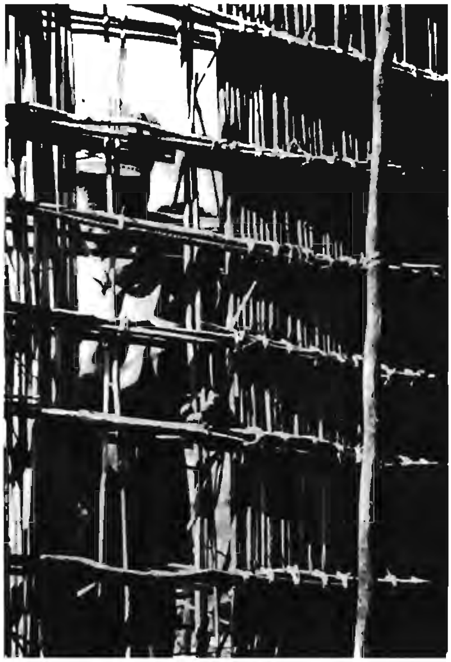

Fig. 2 Hut viewed from the outside showing the hut-builder binding off a few reeds at a time between the inner and outer lath rings.

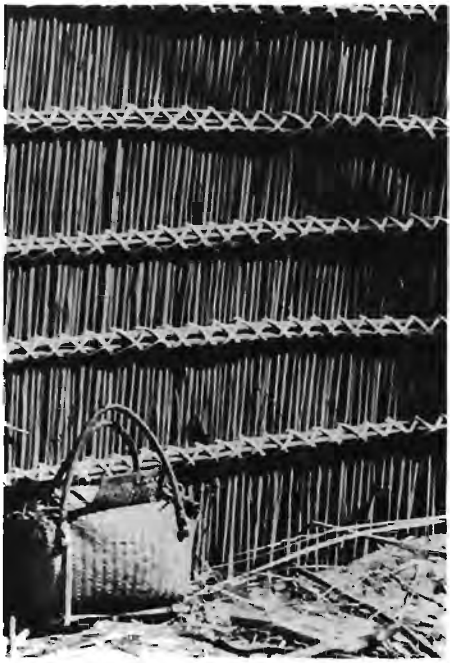

Fig. 3 Interior view of the completed wall of a professionally built hut showing close spacing of reeds.

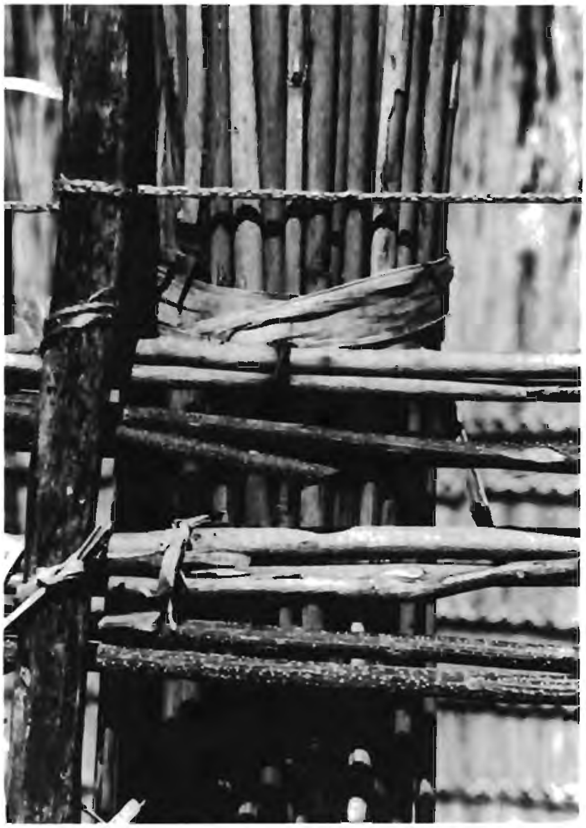

Fig. 4 Plaited string (*D. erianlha*) marking the height at which the reeds will be trimmed.

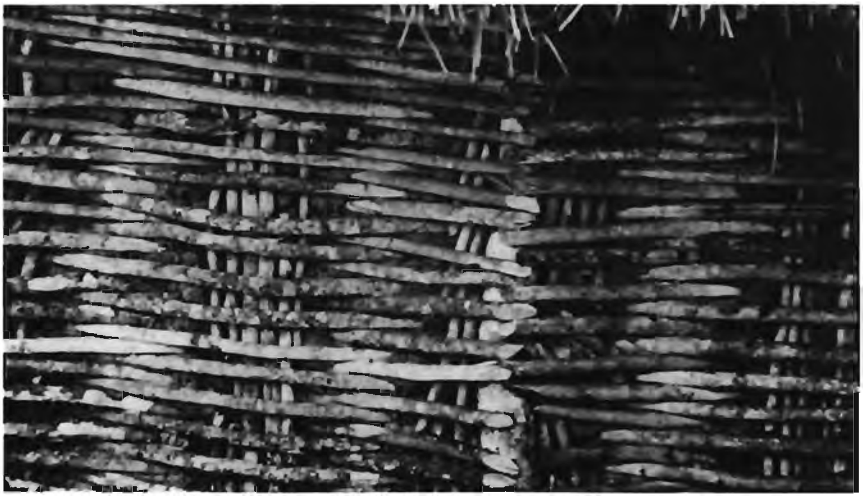

Fig. 5 Lath woven wall showing main upright pole and thinner spacer laths.

Roof construction

The ends of 5–7 laths are bent and bound together using flexible climber species (*Hippocratea delagoensis*, *Uvaria caffra*, *U. lucida*, *Monanthotaxis caffra* or *Landolphia kirkii*) to form the roof apex (Fig. 6). This is stuck into a hole and supported by pegs (Figs 6 and 7). It may also be bound with plaited rope (Fig. 7B, Table 1). The same climber species are also woven around the laths. Thicker laths are sharpened and pushed into spaces between the weaving resting on the climbers strung between poles around the circumference of the roof (Fig. 7A). Later these are supported by rings of laths bound 20–30 cm apart inside and outside the roof framework (Fig. 7C). The roof is then lifted into position on to the supporting poles. Downward movement of the roof is prevented by a bundle of laths bound adjacent to the uppermost circle of laths supporting the wall. Traditionally this bundle was also made of *Vernonia neocorymbosa* stems or short *Phragmites australis* reeds (Fig. 8) but this is less frequent today.

The species of grass or sedge selected for thatching depends on the siting of the homestead and the amount of time available to the builder. *Cyperus latifolius*, *Cladium mariscus* and *Mariscus* species are available from coastal wetlands adjacent to permanent water-bodies. *Cyperus fastigiatus* and *Eriochloa meyeriana* are infrequent on the sandy coastal plain but are common on the Pongolo floodplain. *Imperata cylindrica* and *Hyperthelia dissoluta* are both found on disturbed soils but *H. dissoluta* is more common on the more weathered sands of the older dune ridges. *Cymbopogon* species (*C. validus* and *C. excavatus*) provide excellent thatch material but are seldom used because they grow in isolated clumps

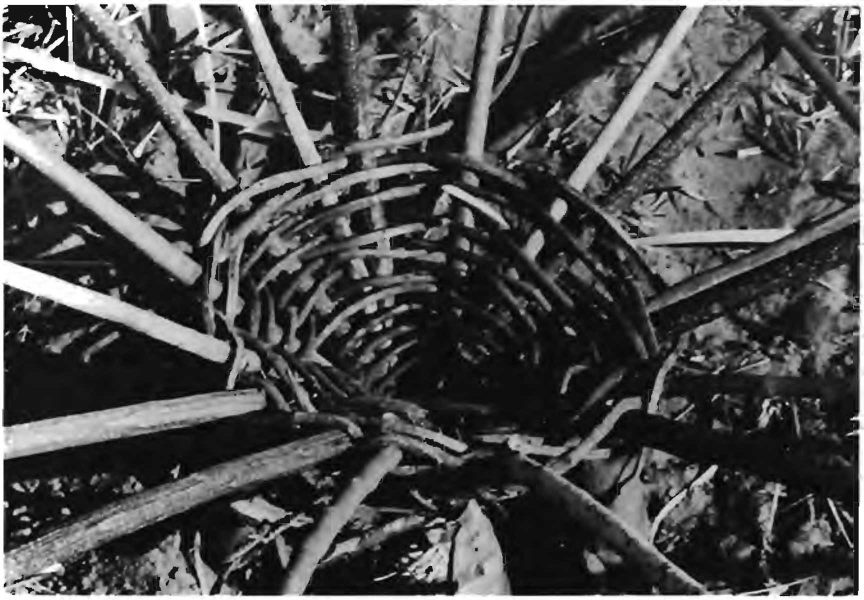

Fig. 6 Apex of hut roof inverted for construction showing laths bound with flexible climber stems (*M. caffra* and *U. virens*).

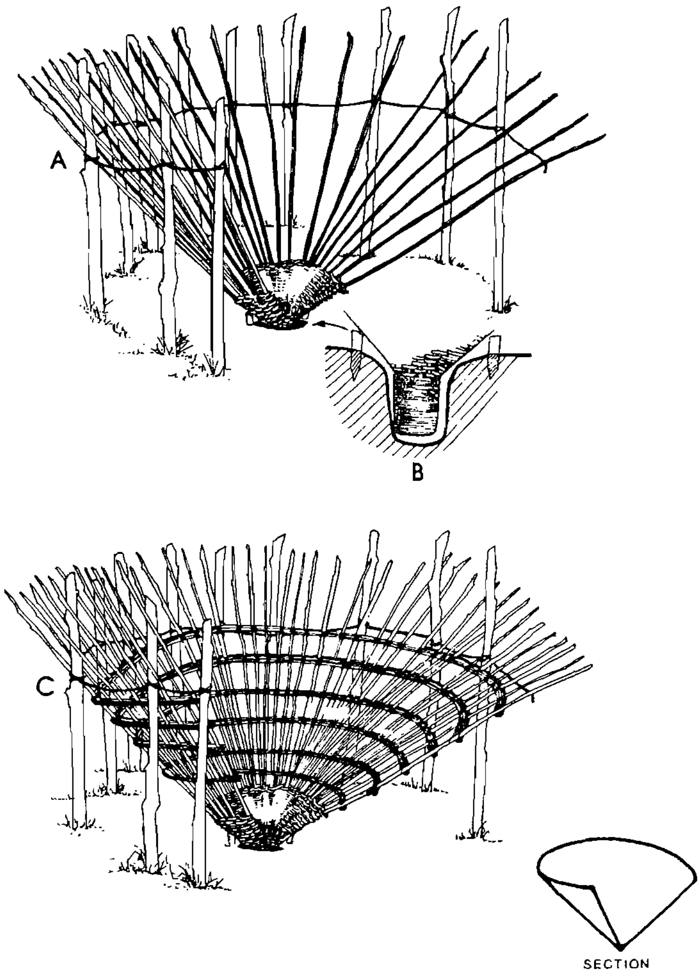

Fig. 7 Stages in roof construction. A. Inverted roof structure with initial binding of laths. B. Apex of hut placed in a hole during construction showing pegs anchoring the roof into position. C. Inner and outer lath rings bound into position.

and are difficult to collect. However they were sometimes collected and sold to wealthier members of the community. This is reflected in the frequency of use of these species in different areas (Cunningham 1985). *I. cylindrica* and *H. dissoluta* are commonly used in high population density areas where there is extensive disturbance. *C. fastigiatus* and *E. meyeriana* are used only for thatching on the Pongolo floodplain whilst *C. latifolius* and *C. mariscus* are rarely used away from coastal-plain wetlands. Similarly binding materials also differ between vegetation types. For example *Ficus capreifolia* twine and *Bolusanthus speciosus* poles used for hut-building in the Ndumu area (Pooley 1980) do not occur on the sandy coastal plain. Conversely, *H. tiliaceus, S. nicolai* and *F. trichopoda* are used only near the coast.

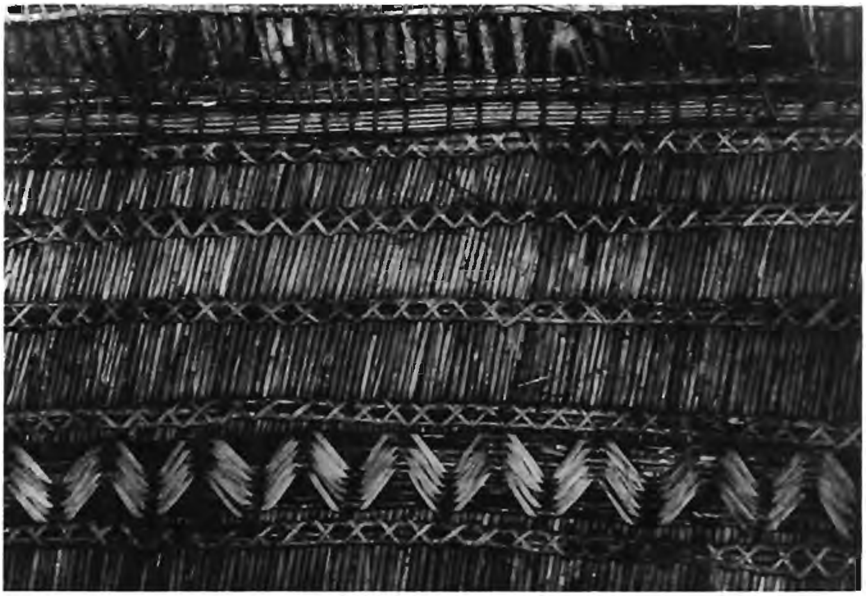

Fig. 8 Wall of a traditional decorated hut showing reed (*P. australis*) bundles at the contact point with the roof and decorative weaving binding climber stems to a section of the wall.

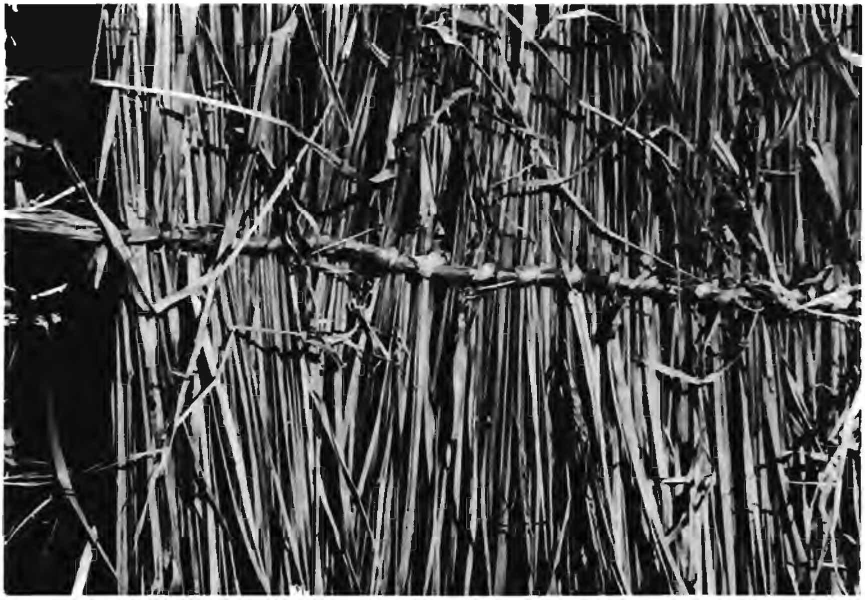

Fig. 9 Section of thatching mat (*I. cylindrica*) bound on to a climber stem (*A. precatorius*) with strips of *H. natalensis* leaf.

Thatch is normally cut from May to the end of September. At this time these grass and sedge species are mature. The thatch grass is dried and then separated into smaller bundles. These are bound into mats about 6–8 metres long. Thin climber species are used as a basis for these mats (*Landolphia kirkii, Abrus precatorius, Uvaria caffra, U. lucida, Monanthotaxis caffra*). The thatch bundles are bound on to these climber stems using *Hyphaene natalensis* leaves, *Strelitzia* petiole or *Ficus* bark (Fig. 9). Twenty to thirty mats are needed for a circular hut and 40–50 for a typical rectangular house. These bundles are stitched on to the roof framework finishing at the apex of the hut. This is made of woven grass and is commonly finished off with sharpened sticks to ward off birds (particularly owls) which are believed to bring misfortune (Fig. 1D and Appendix).

Door construction

Traditional doors were made of laths bound with *Hyphaene* twine (Fig. 10), split and dried *Cyperus papyrus* culms (Fig. 11) or *Phragmites* reeds. Wood from *Euphorbia ingens* trunks was also used.

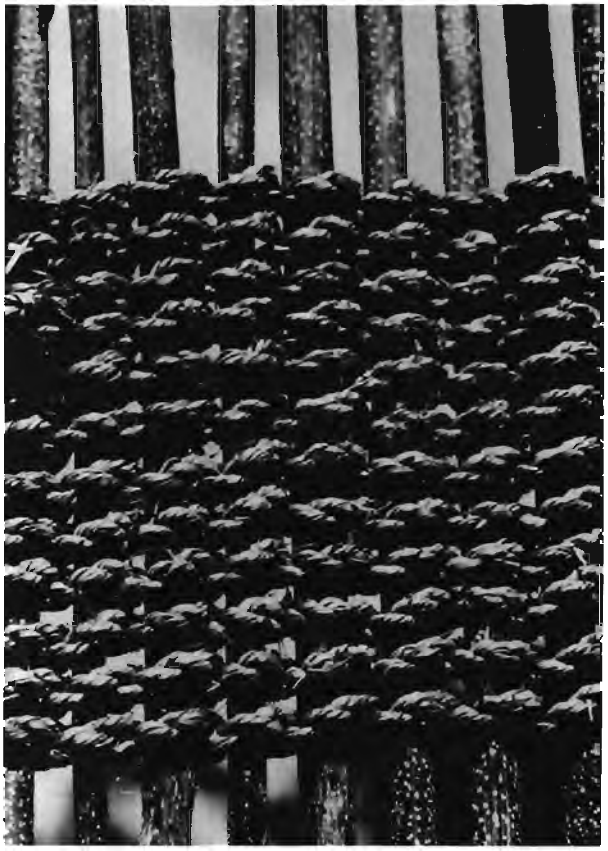

Fig. 10 Partially completed door constructed of vertical laths (*B. discolor*) bound with *H. natalensis* twine.

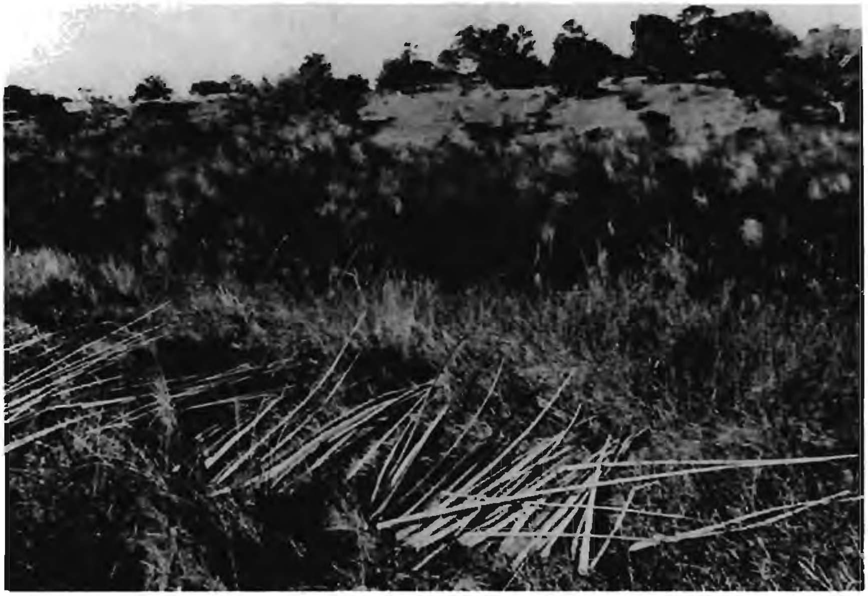

Fig. 11 Cut and longitudinally split *C. papyrus* culms being dried for use in making a traditional door.

Decoration

Complex decoration is restricted to the homes of prominent members of the community that were built by specialist hut-builders. In these huts, the climber species used in weaving the apex of the hut are wound around in concentric circles extending 1–1,5 m down from the hut apex while the hut is inverted and under construction (Fig. 7). These are bound in place with *Strelitzia* petiole strips using a V-shaped decorative stitch which is forced between the tightly bound climbers with a sharp tool (Figs 12–13). The inner lath rings of the roof may also be incorporated into the decoration by careful binding with *Ficus trichopoda* bark twine (Fig. 12). The same climber species and stitch may be used to decorate a section of the hut wall between inner lath rings (Fig. 8) and for making circular decorative discs which are randomly fixed against the roof for good luck (Fig. 14).

When the hut has been thatched, charms are placed in the hut to ward off bad luck. The roots of *Gardenia* species (*Gardenia thunbergii* and *G. spatulifolia*) are commonly used for this purpose. The hut floor is then finished by women who often walk long distances to collect soil with a higher clay content to cover the floor. Use of cow dung is not a popular method of hardening the floor as it is said to attract termites.

Zulu and Tembe-Thonga terminology for the materials used and different sections of the hut is given in the Appendix and Table 1.

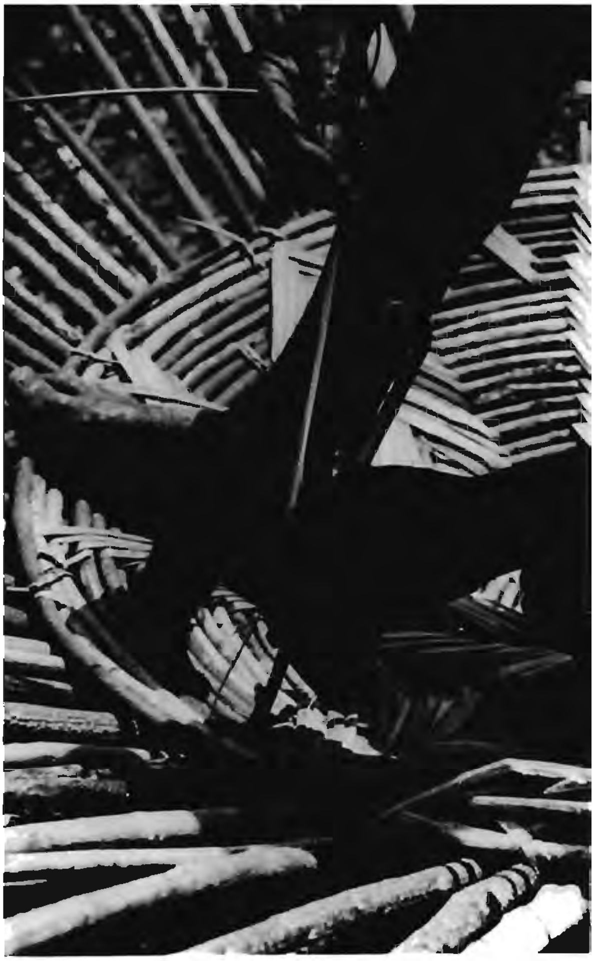

Fig. 12 Decorative roof interior under construction showing a *S. nicolai* strip being pulled between the tightly coiled climbers (*M. caffra* and *U. virens*).

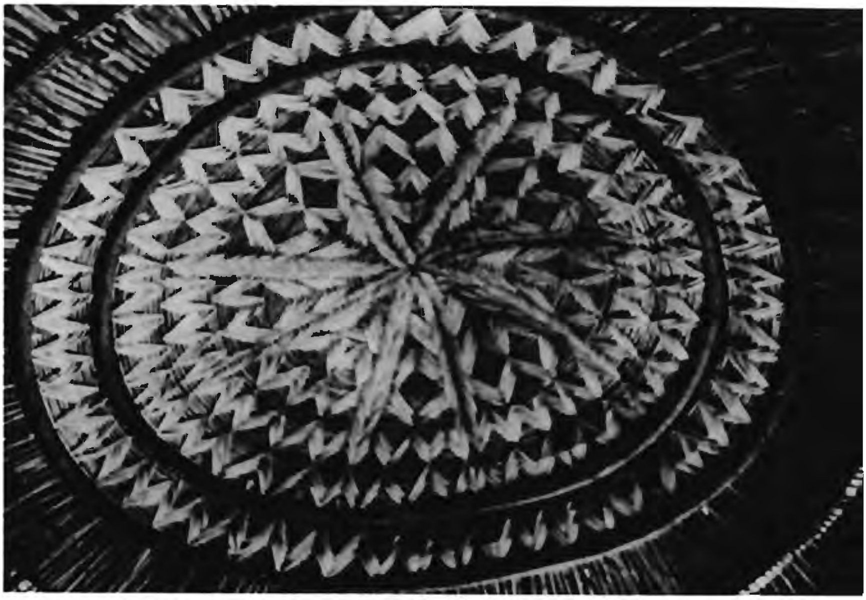

Fig. 13 Completed interior of traditional decorated hut roof showing V-shaped stitches (*S. nicolai*) and inner lath bundles bound with *F. trichopoda* twine.

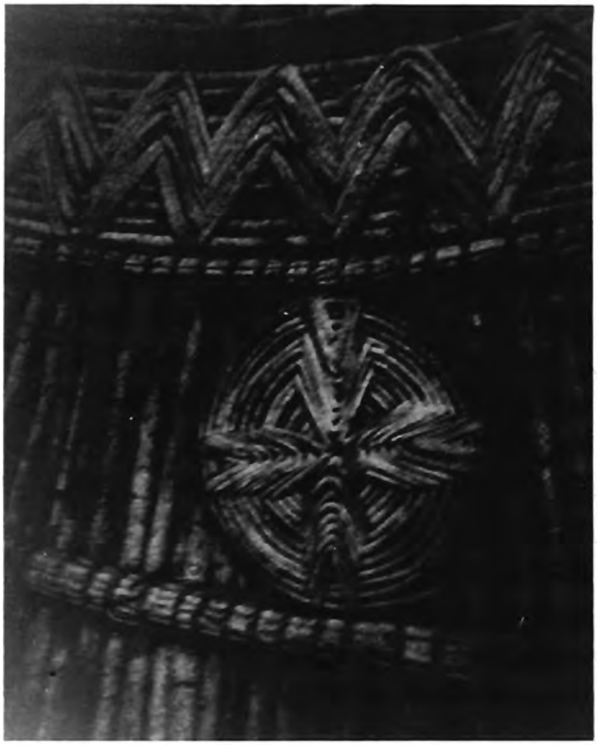

Fig. 14 Disc characteristic of many of the Tembe-Thonga huts.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Culture and the environment are both dynamic and many changes are inevitable. Building methods and sources of building material are both being altered by the effects of man. Despite the many advantages of thatch, corrugated iron is replacing thatch as a roofing material, particularly at economic growth points (Cunningham 1985). Paradoxically, it is in these places where the supply of thatch species growing on disturbed soils (particularly *I. cylindrica* and *H. dissoluta*) is increasing. Conversely, clearing of forest areas for agriculture has reduced the supply of straight hardwood poles available from coastal forest.

Recording the building methods and plant species used in Tembe-Thonga hut construction is important, if only as an historical marker. It can also provide some insight into the interpretation of historical sites on the sandy coastal plain. Most utensils, building materials and craftwork are biodegradable. The only exceptions are the clay pots made in the Lebombo Mountains and traded to people on the coastal plain, pots and palm wine collection containers made from scattered patches of poor quality local clay and the rocks imported into the area for cracking *Sclerocarya birrea* kernels. Even recent sites 10–20 years old are often only recognisable by the presence of trees that were conserved for their shade or fruits and those that have germinated from seeds thrown out after collection of the fruits for home consumption.

Trichilia emetica, Strychnos spinosa, Vangueria infausta, Strychnos madagascariensis, Manilkara discolor, Sclerocarya caffra and the exotic *Mangifera indica* are all common fruit sources found at homestead sites on the coastal plain.

The Tembe tribal ward is not only a species-rich area with a high conservation rating (Bruton 1980). Its people also have a rich cultural history (Junod 1927, Hedges 1978). The knowledge that the Tembe people have of plant uses is a reflection of the historical association between man and the environment. Traditional hut-building techniques and particularly the decorated Tembe-Thonga hut are an aesthetically beautiful and functional example of this interaction. Yet like the implements and weapons made by the iron-smith, the specialist hut-builder's craft is becoming obsolete—a victim of consumerism, concrete block and corrugated iron. However, for the majority of local people, indigenous plant resources still represent a low-cost building resource.

Although styles may change, the demand for indigenous materials (particularly reeds, hardwood poles and laths) and the need for woodlots is increasing (Cunningham 1985).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This paper would not have been possible without the help and interest of R. Mkhonto, M. Mlungwana, P. McLaren, M. Gwala and D. R. MacDevette. Funding to A.B.C. from the CSIR whilst writing up the research work done in Maputaland is very much appreciated. We are also grateful to D. R. MacDevette for the loan of his slides for Figs 8 and 13.

TABLE 1

A list of indigenous plant species used for hut building on the Maputaland coastal plain. Species that potentially could be used but were not recorded in use for hut-building due to their restricted distribution (e.g. *Cavocoa aurea* and *Lasiodiscus miltbraedii*) for laths or value for other purposes (e.g. *Juncus kraussii* twine) are not included in the table.

Plant species (arranged under family subheadings)	Local name (Z = Zulu; T = Tembe-Thonga) (Note: Some of these Zulu names may be derived from Tembe-Thonga)		Use S = Stems; B = Bark; L = Leaves							Comments
			Poles	Laths	Thatch	Reed walls	Binding material	Doors	Roof support bundle	
Poaceae										
Imperata cylindrica (L.) Beav.	umThente	(Z)								
	aLuhlwa	(T)			L, S					
Hemarthria altissima (Poir.) Stapf & C. E. Hubb.	uMdlamvubu	(Z)			L, S					
Cymbopogon excavatus (Hochst.) Stapf ex Burtt Davy	isiQunga	(Z)								
	ashiQungu	(T)			L, S					
Cymbopogon validus Stapf ex Burtt Davy	isiQunga	(Z)								
	ashiQungu	(T)			L, S					
Hyperthelia dissoluta (Nees ex. Steud) W. D. Clayton	uHlongwa	(Z)								
	aHlongwa	(T)			L, S					
Eriochloa meyeriana (Nees) Pilg.	iSwani	(Z)			L, S					
Digitaria eriantha Steud.	isiKhonkho	(Z)					L			twine
Rhyncheletrum repens (Willd.) C. E. Hubb.	umKulane	(Z)			L, S					
Phragmites australis (Cav.) Trin. ex Steud	umHlanga	(Z)			S	S			S	
Phragmites mauritianus Kunth	umHlanga	(Z)			S	S				
Cyperaceae										
Cyperus fastigiatus Rottb.	iNgqongozane	(Z)			S					
Cyperus latifolius Poir.	iKhwane	(Z)								
	aKhwane	(T)			L		L			
Cyperus papyrus L.	iDumu	(Z)								
	aDumu	(T)						S		
Mariscus sp.	iNsikane	(Z)								
	iKhekhe	(T)			L					
Cladium mariscus (L.) Pohl	iNsikane	(Z)								
	iKhekhe	(T)			L					

Araceae							
Phoenix reclinata Jacq.	iSundu	(Z)					
	aNkindu	(T)			L		Leaf rachis occasionally used as an alternative to reeds in palmveld
Hyphaene natalensis Kuntze	iLala	(Z)					
	aNala	(T)				L	
Raphia australis Oberm & Strey	umVuma	(Z)	L				Leaf rachis used
Agavaceae							
Sansevieria guineensis (L.) Willd.	isiKwendle	(Z)					
	ashiTokotoko	(T)				L	twine
Myricaceae							
Myrica serrata Lam.	uMakuthula	(Z)					
	isiHlwane	(Z)		S			
Moraceae							
Ficus burtt-davyi Hutch.	uLuzi	(Z)				B	*uzi* or *uluzi* are also general terms for twine rolled from fig bark. Other *Ficus* species (*F. capreifolia, F. natalensis*) make good rope but their use was not recorded on the coastal plain. *F. lutea* and *F. verruculosa* are also suitable, but twine from these two species is not strong.
Ficus trichopoda Bak.	umFubu	(Z)				B	
	aluFubu	(Z)					
Annonaceae							
Uvaria caffra E. Mey. ex Sond.	iNkonjane	(Z)				S	
Uvaria lucida Benth.	iNkonjane; uMavumba	(Z)				S	
Monanthotaxis caffra (Sond.) Verdc.	iThunganhlanzi	(Z)				S	
	uMaluswembe	(Z)					
Monodora junodii (Engl. & Diels)	umKotshi	(Z)		S			
Leguminosae							
Albizia adianthifolia (Schumach.) W. F. Wight	iGowane	(Z)	S	S			
Albizia forbesii Benth.	umNala; umFomoshane	(Z)	S				
Albizia versicolor Welw. ex Oliv.	umPhisu	(Z)	S	S			
Acacia karoo Hayne	umuNga	(Z)				B	
Erythrophleum lasianthum Corb.	umKwangu	(Z)	S				
Afzelia quanzensis Welw.	umHlakuva; iNkhele	(Z)	S				
Newtonia hildebrandtii (Vatke) Torre	umFomothi	(Z)	S				

TABLE 1 *(continued)*

Plant species (arranged under family subheadings)	Local name (Z = Zulu; T = Tembe-Thonga)		Use S = Stems; B = Bark; L = Leaves							Comments
	(Note: Some of these Zulu names may be derived from Tembe-Thonga)		Poles	Laths	Thatch	Reed walls	Binding material	Doors	Roof support bundle	
Dialium schlecteri Harms	umThiba	(Z)	S							
Craibia zimmermannii (Harms) Harms ex Dunn	umPhungwane	(Z)	S	S						
Dalbergia obovata E. Mey	uDukuduku	(Z)								
	ashiLandula	(T)		S						
Abrus precatorius L.	umKhoka; isiSane	(Z)					S			
Erythroxylaceae										
Erythroxylum emarginatum Thonn.	uPhaphane	(Z)		S						
Rutaceae										
Zanthoxylum capense (Thunb.) Harv.	isiNungwane	(Z)		S						
	umNungamabele	(Z)								
Toddaliopsis bremekampii Verdoorn	inTani	(Z)	S	S						
Ptaeroxylaceae										
Ptaeroxylon obliquum (Thunb.) Radlk.	umThathe	(Z)								
	amBhandadzwidzwi	(T)	S	S						
Euphorbiaceae										
Phyllanthus reticulatus Poir.	umKhangu	(Z)								
	umTshwamtima	(T)		S						
Drypetes arguta (Muell. Arg.) Hutch.	umKushwane	(Z)		S						
Drypetes natalensis (Harv.) Hutch.	umKushwane	(Z)		S						
Hymenocardia ulmoides Oliv.	umDlamahlathi	(Z)								
	aTsatsalasane	(T)	S	S						
Antidesma venosum E. Mey. ex Tul.	isiBangomlotha	(Z)		S						
	umShonga	(Z)								

Bridelia micrantha (Hochst.) Baill.	umHlahle	(Z)	S						
Croton gratissimus Burch.	uHubeshane	(Z)	S	S					
Croton pseudopulchellus Pax	uHubeshane	(Z)		S					
Croton steenkampianus Gerstner	uHubeshane	(Z)		S					
Suregada zanzibariensis Baill.	umKushwane-elikhulu	(Z)		S					
Spirosyachys africana Sond.	umThombothi	(Z)	S						
Sapium intergerrimum (Hochst.) J. Leon	umDlampunzi	(Z)		S					
Euphorbia ingens E. Mey ex Boiss.	umHlohlo	(Z)						S	Planks made from wood of stem
Anacardiaceae									
Ozoroa obovata (Oliv.) R. & A. Fernandes	isiFici	(Z)	S						
Rhus guenzii Sond.	umPhondwe; umPhondo	(Z)		S					
Celastraceae									
Hippocratea delagoensis Loes.	isiFindwane	(Z)					S		
Salacia leptoclada Tul.	iHlangahomo	(Z)		S					
Icacinaceae									
Apodytes dimidiata E. Mey. ex Arn.	umDakane	(Z)	S						
Sapindaceae									
Haplocoelom gallense (Engl.) Radlk.	umThambo	(Z)	S						
Rhamnaceae									
Ziziphus mucronata Willd.	umPhafa; umLahlankosi	(Z)	S						
Tiliaceae									
Grewia caffra Meisn.	iSaka; uPhata	(Z)		S					
Grewia microthyrsa K. Schum. ex Burret	umMunywane	(Z)		S					
Malvaceae									
Hibiscus tiliaceus L.	umLolwe	(Z)					B		
Sterculiaceae									
Cola natalensis Oliv.	umQosho	(Z)		S					
Ochnaceae									
Ochna arborea Burch. ex DC.	isiBomvane	(Z)							
	anShelelo	(T)		S					
Combretaceae									
Combretum molle R.Br. ex G. Don.	umBondwe	(Z)	S						
Pteleopsis myrtifolia (Laws) Engl. & Diels	uMwandla	(Z)	S	S					
Terminalia sericea Burch. ex DC.	iKonono	(Z)	S				B		

TABLE 1 *(continued)*

Plant species (arranged under family subheadings)	Local name (Z = Zulu; T = Tembe-Thonga)		Use S = Stems; B = Bark; L = Leaves							Comments
	(Note: Some of these Zulu names may be derived from Tembe-Thonga)		Poles	Laths	Thatch	Reed walls	Binding material	Doors	Roof support bundle	
Myrtaceae										
Syzygium cordatum Hochst.	umDoni	(Z)								
	anDoni	(T)	S							
Myrsinaceae										
Rapanea melanophloeos (L.) Mez	isiCalabi	(Z)	S	S						
Sapotaceae										
Mimusops caffra E. Mey. ex A.DC.	amaSethole; umTholo	(Z)								
Mimusops obovata Sond.	amaSethole-ehlathi	(Z)								
Manilkara concolor (Harv. ex C.H.Wr.) Gerstner	umNqambo	(Z)	S	S						
Manilkara discolor (Sond.) J. H. Hemsl.	umNwebe	(Z)								
	aNywebe	(T)	S	S						
Ebenaceae										
Diospyros inhacaensis F. White	iNhlayane-emnyama	(Z)								
	isiThomane	(Z)	S	S						
Diospyros natalensis (Harv.) Brenan	iNhlayane-emhlope	(Z)	S	S						
Loganiaceae										
Strychnos decussata (Pappe) Gilg	umPatankosi	(Z)	S	S						
Strychnos henningsii Gilg	umKangala; umQalothi	(Z)	S	S						
Strychnos madagascariensis Poir.	umKwakwa	(Z)	S	S						
Strychnos mitis S. Moore	uManono	(Z)		S						
Apocynaceae										
Landolphia kirkii Dyer	umBungwa	(Z)								
	amBungwa	(T)					S			

Voacanga thuoarsii Roem. & Schult.	umKahlwana	(Z)								
	anKahlu	(T)	S							
Wrightia natalensis Stapf	umPhengende	(Z)		S				S		Planks made for doors
Rubiaceae										
Catunaregam spinosa (Thunb.) Tirvengadum	isiKhwakhwane	(Z)	S	S						
Coddia rudis (E. Mey. ex Harv.) Verde	umDondwane	(Z)								
	ashiMane	(T)		S						
Gardenia amoena Sims	umTembeswane	(Z)		S						
Tricalysia sonderana Hiern	uTolomba-ehlathi	(Z)		S						
Kraussia floribunda Harv.	isiKhubashane	(Z)		S						
Canthium obovatum Klotzch	umHlelehlele	(Z)		S						
Compositae										
Vernonia neocorymbosa Hilliard	isiLelevu-esikhulu	(Z)							S	
Brachylaena discolor DC.	iPhahla	(Z)		S						
Brachylaena huillensis O.Hoffm.	iPhahla-ehlathi	(Z)	S	S						

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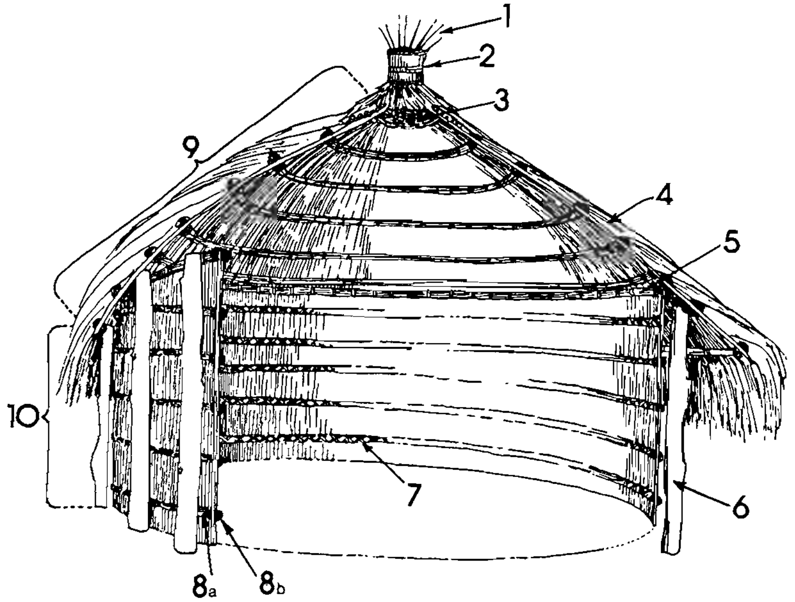
APPENDIX

Zulu (Z) and Tembe-Thonga (T) terminology for sections of the home (*umuzi*). Numbers refer to those in the illustration.



1. *iziNti* (Z) = sharpened sticks at roof apex to keep away unlucky birds (particularly owls)
2. *ashiHlungu* (T) = apex of hut, often containing *Gardenia spatulifolia* root (protective charm)
3. *isiNyonywane* (Z), *abuHlangwe* (T) = binding with creepers near hut apex
4. *uTshani* (Z), *aJhwanyi* (T) = thatch made in a series of bundles forming a mat (*aQeku* T)
5. *isiPhetho* (Z) = roof support bundle
6. *iNtsika* (Z), *atiMpande* (T) = roof support pole
7. *uKhubo* (Z) = decorative criss-cross weaving

8a. *amaBhalelo-angaphandle* (T) = inner *(a)* and outer *(b)* wall support laths
b. *amaBhalelo-angaphakathi* (T) (Note: flexible thin laths are *amaBhalelo* (T) or *amaTando* (Z). Thicker laths are referred to as *atiNhungu* (T) *or iziNtingu* (Z)
9. *aLwangu* (T); uPahla (Z) = roof
10. *aKhumbi* (T); uBonda (Z) = wall

The interior of the hut is divided into two sections. The men sleep in one section (*ashiLawu*) and the women in the other.